



January 15, 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530  
Fax: 202-616-9937

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Please register my comments under the summary, "Let's end the Microsoft lawsuit while both parties agree." This lawsuit has dragged on for years, and has cost American taxpayers over \$30 million to prosecute. Enough already! There is absolutely no reason to continue the suit any longer. I hope that the Department of Justice will take the same position as Microsoft and the federal prosecutors in this case: let's approve the settlement and move on.

Let's examine the facts in this case with regard to the American economy and economic development. First of all, we're in a recession. This recession has driven up the unemployment rate and driven down the value of stocks. Thus, many Americans have lost their jobs, and many of those who still have employment have seen their savings devalued. Not good, right?

Second, Microsoft is recognized innovative leader in American business technology. In fact, virtually every business that I've recruited to Wake Forest uses Microsoft products in some form or another. They rely on Microsoft to develop new products on a perpetual basis in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of business. Yet, Microsoft has been forced to spend untold millions of dollars on legal defense instead of research and development. Additionally, the legal battle has undoubtedly cast doubt in Microsoft's executives' minds as to whether they can legally introduce innovative products without being sued.

Which brings me to my final point. The American entrepreneurial spirit is our singular most valuable asset. If creative American business leaders are intimidated to the extent that they stop creating efficient business products for the rest of us to enjoy, then we have in effect killed the American entrepreneurial spirit. We don't want that, do we?

I request that Judge Kollar Kotelly approves the settlement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Barrington".

Stephen Barrington  
Economic Development Director  
Wake Forest, North Carolina

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